



# **PUBLIC HEALTH**

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Universal Newborn Hearing Screening  
In Washington State  
April 13, 2005

# Outline

- I. Background Information
- II. Reported Hearing Screening Rates in WA
- III. Partnerships & Collaborative Efforts Supporting Hearing Screening
- IV. Status of Department of Health System for Monitoring Hearing Screening in WA
- V. Ongoing Issues
- VI. Summary

## Background Information

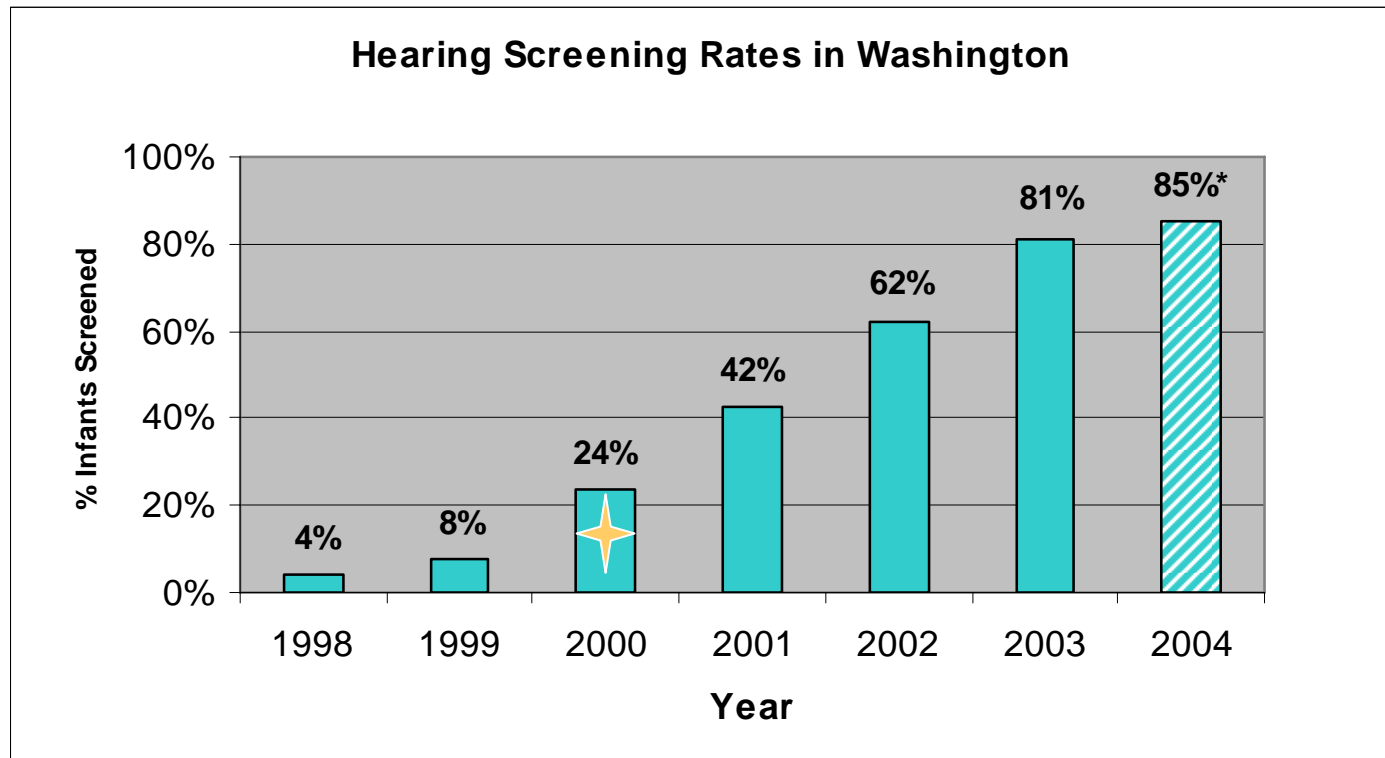
- Among the 80,000 infants born each year in our state, it is expected that up to 240 may be born deaf or with hearing loss.
- Early intervention services by 6 months of age facilitates age appropriate language development
- Without screening, hearing loss is not diagnosed until 12-25 months of age

## Background Information Cont.

- **By 1 Month of Age: Hearing Screen**
  - Performed at the birth hospital, prior to discharge
- **By 3 Months of Age: Diagnostic Evaluation**
  - Performed by pediatric audiologist
- **By 6 Months of Age: Early Intervention**
  - Multiple management options to consider

*Joint Committee on Infant Hearing (2000)*

## Hearing Screening Rates Reported by Hospitals



\* This figure reflects the *estimated* hearing screen rate for 2004. By the end of 2004, 66 of 68 birthing hospitals had universal hearing screening programs.

## Partnerships and Collaborative Efforts Supporting Hearing Screening

- Washington Hospitals
- Washington State Hospital Association
- Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Association
- Northwest Lion's Foundation for Sight and Hearing Resources
- Audiologists
- Department of Health

## **DOH Has Developed a System:**

GOAL 1: Monitor whether every infant receives a screen

GOAL 2: Recommend appropriate follow-up care

GOAL 3: Provide quality assessment and control

## Background of DOH System

- Initiated in 2000 with federal grant funding and in 2003, general fund state dollars were added
- Developed electronic database system for tracking hearing screening and outcomes
- System is based on screening results submitted by hospitals on each infant & when needed, diagnostic information from audiologists

## **Hospital participation in DOH system:**

- Started with 7 pilot hospitals to develop the system from 2000-2003
- Added 28 birthing hospitals throughout 2004
- Expect all will participate by the end of 2005

## Goal 1

### Monitor whether every infant receives a screen

- 96% of infants have hearing screen record
- 4% no documentation of hearing screen
- Less than 1% parental refusal

## Goal 2

### Recommend appropriate follow-up

- 94% of infants had normal hearing screening
- Of those who failed screening:
  - 1% of infants could not be located
  - 3% primary care provider shared recommendations with infant's parents
  - 2% cases are on-going
    - 14 infants diagnosed with hearing loss

## Goal 3

### Provide quality assessment and control

- We provide monthly quality assurance reports to participating hospitals
- We provide additional reports as needed or as requested by participating hospitals

## Ongoing Issues

- Evaluating infants with unknown outcomes
- Providing follow-up services for infants at-risk for later developing hearing loss
- Variable allocation of hospital resources
- Organizing Early Intervention services
- Assessing the need for possible rule change
- Identifying sustainable resources and funding

## Summary

- Hospitals reported 85% of all infants statewide were screened in 2004
- In 2005, 66 of 68 birthing hospitals have hearing screening programs
- 95% of those infants followed by DOH received screening from Jan-Sept 2004. Of those, 14 were confirmed to have hearing loss.
- Need further assessment to determine quality of programs and availability of sustainable resources and funding for hearing screening programs
- Efforts in WA are collaborative and on-going

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